



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KC, HARRISONVILLE MEN SENTENCED IN METH CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Bradley J. Schlozman, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man and a Harrisonville, Mo., man were sentenced in federal court today for their involvement in a conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine.

Patrick P. Gruetze, 31, of Kansas City, and **Christopher Burton**, 35, of Harrisonville, were sentenced in separate appearances before U.S. Chief District Judge Dean Whipple. **Gruetze** was sentenced to 10 years and 10 months in federal prison without parole. **Burton** was sentenced to five years in federal prison without parole.

On June 23, 2005, **Gruetze** pleaded guilty to participating in a conspiracy to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between April 1, 2003, and Dec. 15, 2004. **Gruetze** admitted that the amount of actual methamphetamine involved in the conspiracy was 1,019 grams.

On Nov. 18, 2005, **Burton** pleaded guilty to his role in the conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine.

Gruetze and **Burton** are among 12 co-defendants who have been sentenced or pleaded guilty to charges contained in a Dec. 15, 2004, federal indictment.

Co-defendant **Kara S. Patrick**, 23, of Raytown, Mo., was sentenced on March 31, 2006, to two years in federal prison without parole. **Patrick** pleaded guilty on Aug. 31, 2005, to aiding and abetting others in the manufacture of 50 grams or more of methamphetamine on July 17, 2004.

Co-defendants **James Deterding**, 33, of Kansas City, and **Angela K. Baker**, 30, and

Joseph Miller, 43, both of Independence, were sentenced on March 28, 2006. **Deterding** was sentenced to seven years and one month in federal prison without parole. **Baker** was sentenced to five years and seven months in federal prison without parole. **Miller** was sentenced to one year in federal prison without parole. **Deterding** and **Baker** both pleaded guilty on Aug. 31, 2005, to participating in a conspiracy to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between April 1, 2003, and Dec. 15, 2004. **Miller** pleaded guilty on Sept. 12, 2005, to aiding abetting others in attempting to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine on July 17, 2004.

Co-defendants **Edward Bowman, Jr.**, 21, of Kansas City, and **Terra Hedger**, 31, of Belton, Mo., were sentenced on March 28, 2006. **Bowman** was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison without parole. **Hedger** was sentenced to three years and four months in federal prison without parole. On Nov. 22, 2005, **Bowman** pleaded guilty to conspiring with others to manufacture five grams or more of methamphetamine between April 1, 2003, and Dec. 15, 2004. On Aug. 31, 2005, **Hedger** pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting others in the manufacture of methamphetamine on July 30, 2004.

Co-defendants **Winfred E. Taylor**, 37, of Kansas City, and **Charles Zelk**, 35, of Leawood, Kan., have also pleaded guilty to participating in a conspiracy to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between April 1, 2003, and Dec. 15, 2004.

Co-defendant **Kristy Hays**, 33, of Kansas City, pleaded guilty on Sept. 6, 2005, to her role in a conspiracy to manufacture five grams or more of methamphetamine.

Co-defendant **Patrick Allen**, 42, of Kansas City, pleaded guilty on Nov. 23, 2005, to aiding and abetting another person to attempt to manufacture methamphetamine on Aug. 17, 2004.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Catherine A. Connelly. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department, the Kansas City Metro Meth Task Force and the Belton, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow